

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009

SWAC Members

David Frank, Vice Chair	Paula Jenson	Kurt Osuch
Sara Ducey	Ed Lee	Craig Simoneau
Steve Findley	Lee Levine	Steve Sprague
Susan Filocco	Marcia Marks	Ed Violette
Marcia Harrington		

Absent: M. Glazer, O. Hall

County Staff

Guests

Angela Jordan, DSWS
Eileen Kao, DSWS
Lauren Kuhn, DSWS
Gabie Monzon-Reynolds, DSWS
Alan Pultyniewicz, DSWS

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Vice Chair at 7:30 p.m. on October 6, 2009, in the Executive Office Building Lobby Level Auditorium.

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the September 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

Subcommittee/ Reports – Mr. Levine reported the School Recycling subcommittee had a good meeting with MCPS SERT staff Hillary Kirchman and Sean Gallagher. Their high energy was favorably received by the committee. He mentioned that they seem to know what they are doing. The subcommittee found out that Lynne Zarate and Agustin Diaz were no longer working on MCPS' school recycling program and the duties were transitioning to Hillary and Sean. The subcommittee feels positive there are now dedicated people responsible for the recycling initiatives. Ms. Kao mentioned that Mr. Gallagher was proactive in requesting a meeting with DSWS Recycling staff for an initial introductory meeting. No one had been privy to the transition occurring in the MCPS recycling program leadership.

Mr. Sprague explained that the "Tap 'n Stack" plastic trays were replacing the Styrofoam trays. He also added that NIH donated 41 multi-section recycling bins to MCPS. NIH had not been able to use them because they were not deemed to be bomb-proof.

Mr. Violette reported that the MFP committee met, and the result was that no changes are recommended for DAFIG. He explained that the outcome of the meeting may

possibly end the idea to dissolve DAFIG. Vacancies for the DAFIG have been advertised.

2010 Chair/Vice Chair Nominations

Chair: Mark Glazer
Kurt Osuch

Vice Chair: Paula Jenson

The Vice Chair let the members know that nominations will be open until November. Additional nominations may be submitted via email to Ms. Jordan, if desired.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

Ms. Kao started the presentation by giving a brief overview of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Section. She introduced Ms. Lauren Kuhn, the Program Manager of the Multi-Family Recycling Program and Ms. Gabie Monzon-Reynolds, the Program Manager of the Business Recycling Program.

DSWS staff provides technical assistance, outreach, education, and training on waste reduction, recycling and buying recycled products, and enforcement of Executive Regulation 15-04AM, which outlines the mandatory recycling and collection of commingled materials, scrap metal, mixed paper, yard trim, and Christmas trees.

Recycling Investigators are responsible for the enforcement of the County Code and ER 15-04AM, as it relates to multi-family properties and businesses. The Investigator has the authority to cite those who are not in compliance. The fine for a citation for non-compliance can run as high as \$500 for an initial offense, which can be increased for repeat offenses, and can be levied daily. In all cases, the Investigator will educate the defendant as to exactly what the violation is, provide specific recommendations on how to correct the violation, and an appropriate amount of time to correct the infraction, as well as give recommendations to prevent a repeat offense.

Multi-Family Recycling (TRRAC)

- Multi-family properties are defined as dwellings with seven or more residential units.
- Staff in the Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums (TRRAC) Program aid in the implementation of recycling and waste programs for multi-family properties in compliance with Montgomery County laws. The objective of DSWS staff is to educate, motivate, and empower property managers, owners, and residents on what can be recycled and why recycling is important.
- On-site recycling programs must be established and executed for all properties. To assist property managers, newsletters are mailed out quarterly, and reference materials on recycling are distributed to help properties achieve goals and compliance. Recycling specialists visit properties regularly to achieve the following:
 - Ensure convenient and sufficient collection capacity.

- Improve mixed paper recycling collection – properties have responded positively to replacing small mixed paper recycling dumpsters that better accommodate pieces of cardboard.
- Increase awareness among residents and staff.
- Establish scrap metal recycling collection at multi-family properties. It is currently not available.
- Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction reports must be submitted annually by property management by February 1st to the DSWS.
- TRRAC staff is available for community events, educational seminars, and property staff training to ensure efficient recycling procedures and improve recycling achievement.
 - Approximately 70 site visits are conducted weekly to monitor property complaints, bin use, recycling collection, and interact with residents.
 - In FY08, 7.2 percent of all waste generated in the County was by multi-family properties. At 13.2 percent, the multi-family sector has held the lowest recycling rate of all three sectors in the County.
 - In FY09, staff conducted 3,422 site visits of multi-family properties, delivered 9,115 in-dwelling unit recycling bins, and addressed 570 residential requests/concerns.
- During Recycling Awareness Week, 20 multi-family properties are recognized by Montgomery County for their dedicated recycling efforts.

Business Recycling (SORRT)

- A business is defined as an organization that is not a residential property. There are approximately 35,000 businesses of all sizes in Montgomery County, with approximately 520,000 employees.
- In FY08, the non-residential sector produced 53.5 percent of all waste generated in the County. This sector has improved its recycling rate to 40 percent.
- The business recycling staff of the Division of Solid Waste Services enforces Executive Regulation 15-04AM which outlines the mandatory recycling and collection of commingled, scrap metal, paper, and other recyclable material.
- Staff in the Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons (SORRT) Program of DSWS aid in the implementation of recycling and waste programs for businesses in compliance with Montgomery County laws. The objective of DSWS staff is to educate, motivate, and empower business owners, managers, and employees on what can be recycled and why recycling is important.
- Businesses are required to submit Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction reports to DSWS annually. The due dates are determined by business size.

- Large businesses must submit their report by February 1st of every year.
- Medium and small businesses must submit their reports by March 1st of every year.
- First time filers have 60 days to submit their reports after receiving a written request from DSWS.
- Online filing has been encouraged and is up 6 percent in 2009 from the previous filing year.
- The SORRT staff provides on-site consultations with businesses to design recycling programs that work best for the business.
 - Employee Education Training – SORRT staff will conduct after hours events to talk with janitorial staff. Also, a formal presentation will be given to review Montgomery County regulations. Pictures have been very helpful for those who do not speak English as a first language. Bi-lingual speakers are available, when needed.
 - Business Recycling Seminars/Workshops – DSWS organizes two seminars per year which allows businesses, employees, property managers and collectors to learn about the County's recycling requirements and share best practices regarding their recycling programs.
 - Special Events – There are special recycling events held in building lobbies, during lunch hours, diversity fairs, and health fairs. DSWS staff will make appearances when requested, or when they see an opportunity for more outreach and education.
- Staff training helps ensure efficient recycling procedures are in place to improve recycling achievement .
 - Periodic waste audits are conducted.
 - SORRT staff conducted on-site evaluations of school recycling infrastructure programs at 206 public schools during the 2008-2009 school year. Of the 206 schools, only three schools needed a re-evaluation in January 2009.
 - Over 10,000 bins have been given to businesses to help in their recycling efforts. New businesses receive recycling starter kits.
- Central Business District Improvements – SORRT staff have been working to develop and implement cooperative recycling and refuse collection programs for businesses located in the County's Central Business Districts (Bethesda, Wheaton, and Silver Spring). Space available for outdoor recycling containers is at a premium, since the area behind the stores can be tight. Some businesses share the expense of recycling and refuse containers with other businesses.

- Turnover at businesses continues to be a challenge. New employees need to be educated on recycling procedures in their workplace.
- DSWS recognized 50 businesses during Recycling Awareness Week for their outstanding recycling initiatives. Schools are also recognized for their improved recycling programs.

NEW BUSINESS

The Vice Chair mentioned the publishing of the vacancy announcements for SWAC. He reminded committee members with expiring terms that they need to reapply to the County Executive for another term. Two members are at the end of their second term and cannot reapply for a third term, unless a waiver is requested from the CE.

Ms. Harrington mentioned adding the County Parks Department (the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) as a major program topic for the 2010 calendar.

Mr. Findley mentioned that Montgomery County parks had recycling bins next to the trash cans, but is unclear why the program may have possibly fallen apart. At one point, there was recycling in all parks. A program was initiated at one point by officials that park visitors take their trash with them when they leave. However, this practice was discontinued. Ms. Filocco asked if the tonnage figures from the parks could be reported as MCPS tonnages are.

Ms. Marks expressed a desire for a membership discussion on potential subject matters. Ms. Marks suggested that SWAC members have a variety of areas of expertise, and stated that she would like to see presentations made by SWAC members. Ms. Marks added that there is a need for clarity on the committee. What is every member's purpose and motivation for serving on SWAC? Mr. Violette had the idea for every SWAC member submit a brief bio to Ms. Jordan via email of who they are.

Ms. Kao added that some critical items are must be presented to SWAC in order for the committee to address during the year, such as the proposed annual operating budget from the CE each year. She added that there are open dates for SWAC to decide on topics they would like to hear about and/or discuss. Furthermore, the Vice Chair stated that SWAC's mission can be found in Chapter 48 of the County Code. Ms. Marks suggested that ad hoc groups and subcommittees meet to discuss specific topics or concerns, work on topics, and report back to the full committee with pertinent details. Numerous Committee members indicated that this is in fact how SWAC has been operating for quite some time. The Vice Chair encouraged members to email any ideas for 2010 meeting topics they had to Ms. Jordan before the next meeting in November.

Mr. Osuch requested that motions and committee actions be recorded in a report. The Vice Chair explained that all SWAC motions, actions, correspondence, etc. are recorded in the monthly minutes.

The Planning committee requested a meeting in October to receive an update on the 10-Year Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

ACRONYMS

CE	County Executive
CY	Calendar Year
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MFP	Management & Fiscal Policy
SERT	School Energy & Recycling Team
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TRRAC	Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2008 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Abralind, Jessica		X	X	X	X	X							-1	
Alexander, Leslie		X	X		X	X				X			-3	
Findley, Steve			X	X	X	X				X	X			
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X				X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Guernica, Mimi	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Hall, Odell	X		X		X	X				X	X		-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Lee, Ed		X	X	X	X	X					X		-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X				X	X		-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X			X	X				X	X		-2	
McCarty, Sean	X	X		X	X						X		-3	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Violette, Ed				X	X	X				X	X			

November 2008-October 2009

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2009 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie		X			X								-2	resigned
Ducey, Sara					X	X			X	X			-1	
Findley, Steve	X	X	X			X			X	X			-1	
Filocco, Susan					X				X	X			-2	
Frank, David	X	X	X		X	X			X	X				May '08 dropped off
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X		X	X			X				-1	
Hall, Odell		X				X							-5	Feb/April '08 dropped off, waiver req. submitted
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X				X			-1	Nov '08 dropped off
Jenson, Paula		X	X		X	X			X	X			-1	
Lee, Ed	X	X	X			X				X			-2	October '08 dropped off
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X			X	X			-1	April/May '08 dropped off
Marks, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X			X	X				April/May '08 dropped off
Osuch, Kurt			X		X				X	X			-1	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X			X			X	X			-1	May '08 dropped off
Sprague, Steve	X	X	X		X	X			X	X				
Violette, Ed	X	X	X		X	X			X	X				